prioritisation already received from the States and the lakes identified under the Study.

Wildlife Protection Act

904. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been reports of widespread violation of the Wild Life Protection Act by certain State Governments; and

(b) if so, what remedial steps Government are taking to prevent this and ensure protection of our wildlife heritage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) There are reports of few instances of the violation of the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 by States.

(b) The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 provides for the prevention of such violations and to ensure protection of our wildlife heritage. Hon'ble Supreme Court has also prohibited the removal of dead, diseased, dying or wind fallen trees, drift wood and grasses, etc. from any National Park or Sanctuary. In addition, the Hon'ble Court has also given directives to regulate the diversion of National park and Sanctuary area for non forestry purposes.

Policy to check devastation of Mangrove forests

905. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government to develop a uniform policy to check devastation of Mangrove forests in the country;

(b) the details of protective measures already in place for Mangrove forests protection;

(c) the funds allotted for this purpose in 2003-04;

(d) whether any international assistance has been sought for protection of Mangrove forests; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?